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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
09/811,389	03/20/2001	Kozo Mano	0052/042001	8768	
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SMITH PAT	ENT OFFICE		EXAMINER		
1901 PENNSY SUITE 200	'LVANIA AVENUE N W		PHAM, HAI CHI		
WASHINGTON, DC 20006			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
	•		2861		
			DATE MAII PD: 04/23/2003		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary Examiner			Application No.	Applicant(s)	M			
Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Behaviors of mylin specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days, will be communication. If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory primitives of the period for reply appeal and down, the maximum statutory period will appeal to the statutory reply to the statutory and the communication. If the period for reply appeal adove, the maximum statutory period will appeal to the statutory reply to the statutory and the statutory reply and the statutory reply to the statutory reply and the statutory reply			09/811,389	KOZO MANO				
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1) M Notice of Deference Cited (DTO 802)	•							
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) Other:								

Art Unit: 2861

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Prosecution Application

1. The request filed on 02/06/03 for a Continued Examination Application (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 based on parent Application No. 09/811,389 is acceptable and a RCE has been established. An action on the RCE follows.

Claim Objections

2. The following claims are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 5:

 Line 2, "the adjuster" should read --each of the adjusters-- since there are now three separated adjusters being claimed.

Claim 6:

Line 3, "the adjuster" should read --each of the adjusters--.

Claim 7:

• Line 2, "the adjuster" should read --each of the adjusters--.

Claim 9:

• Line 3, "the adjuster" should read --each of the adjusters--.

Claim 15:

• Line 2, "the adjuster" should read --each of the adjusters--.

Claim 16:

• Line 3, "the adjuster" should read --each of the adjusters--.

Art Unit: 2861

Claim 17:

• Line 2, "the adjuster" should read --each of the adjusters--.

Claim 19:

Line 3, "the adjuster" should read --each of the adjusters--.
 Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- 3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
 - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 4. Claims 1-3, 7-13, 17-22, 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuyama (U.S. 6,292,279 B1) in view of Takahashi et al. (U.S. 5,883,385).

Matsuyama discloses an optical recording device comprising three laser light sources emitting red, green and blue light beams, respectively, an optical path adjusting system including a position sensor (35) and a corresponding adjuster (mirrors 4, 5, 6) for adjusting an optical path of each of the red, green, blue laser beams.

Although, Matsuyama discloses the position sensor being carefully disposed at a plane optically conjugates with the focal point (10) of the three laser beams, Matsuyama however fails to teach the position sensor being disposed at a plane optically

Application/Control Number: 09/811,389

Art Unit: 2861

conjugates with the plane corresponding to the photographic paper. Matsuyama also does not disclose the optical scanning system.

Regardless, Takahashi et al. discloses a multi-beam scanning apparatus including a respective optical path adjusting device (galvanomirrors 3a, 3b) for adjusting the optical path of each of the laser beams (La, Lb) based on the detection of the laser beams by the position sensor (13), which can be disposed in various emplacement within the apparatus but remained optically conjugated with the surface of the photosensitive drum, the apparatus also including a polygon mirror for scanning the laser beams on the surface of the photosensitive drum.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the device of Matsuyama with the aforementioned teaching of Takahashi et al. for the purpose of sensing the position of the laser beams as they scanned the surface of the photographic paper.

Matsuyama further teaches a beam splitter, a total reflection mirror used as the optical path adjuster, the mirror being rotated around an axis by an actuator (36X, 36Y), a processor (not shown) for calculating a quantity of displacement between the positions of the laser beams on the position of the sensor and for controlling the actuator based on the calculated quantity of the displacement (col. 5, line 66 to col. 6, line 48) (Fig. 1b), and all the laser beams being adjusted to overlap at a certain point (10)...

Art Unit: 2861

5. Claims 4, 14, 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuyama in view of Takahashi et al., as applied to claims 1 and 11 above, and further in view of Uemura et al. (U.S. 5,436,645).

Regardless, Uemura et al. discloses an inspection and adjustment method for a laser scanning optical system, which includes a display monitor for observing the detected laser light beam by a position sensor unit.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the device of Matsuyama, as modified by Takahashi et al., with the aforementioned teaching of Uemura et al. for the purpose of constantly monitoring the position of the detected light beam.

6. Claims 5-6, and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuyama in view of Takahashi et al., as applied to claims 1 and 11 above, and further in view of Winsor (U.S. 5,379,059).

Matsuyama in view of Takahashi et al. discloses all the basic limitations of the claimed invention except for the mirror being manually rotatable around an axis.

Winsor discloses an adjustment mechanism used in a laser printer, which includes laser beam sources for emitting red, green and blue laser beams, corresponding optical path adjusting mirrors (14, 30, 42) for adjusting the optical of the respective laser beams, the azimuth and the elevation angle of each of the mirrors being independently and manually adjusted (via screws) for correcting the final position of each of the laser beams (Figs. 2-6).

Art Unit: 2861

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the optical path adjusting system as taught by Winsor in the modified device of Matsuyama for the purpose of providing fine adjustment of the mirrors.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-25 have been considered but are most in view of the new grounds of rejection presented in this Office action.

Additional Prior Art

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Hidaka (U.S. 4,949,100) discloses an apparatus for forming composite laser beam, including optical path adjusting device for each of the primary color laser sources.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hai C Pham whose telephone number is (703) 308-1281. The examiner can normally be reached on T-F (8:30-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Benjamin R. Fuller can be reached on (703) 308-0079. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)

Art Unit: 2861

308-7722, (703) 308-7724, (703) 308-7382, (703) 305-3431, (703) 305-3432 for regular

communications and for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

HAI PHAM

PRIMARY EXAMINER

Harshi Phan

April 19, 2003

Page 7